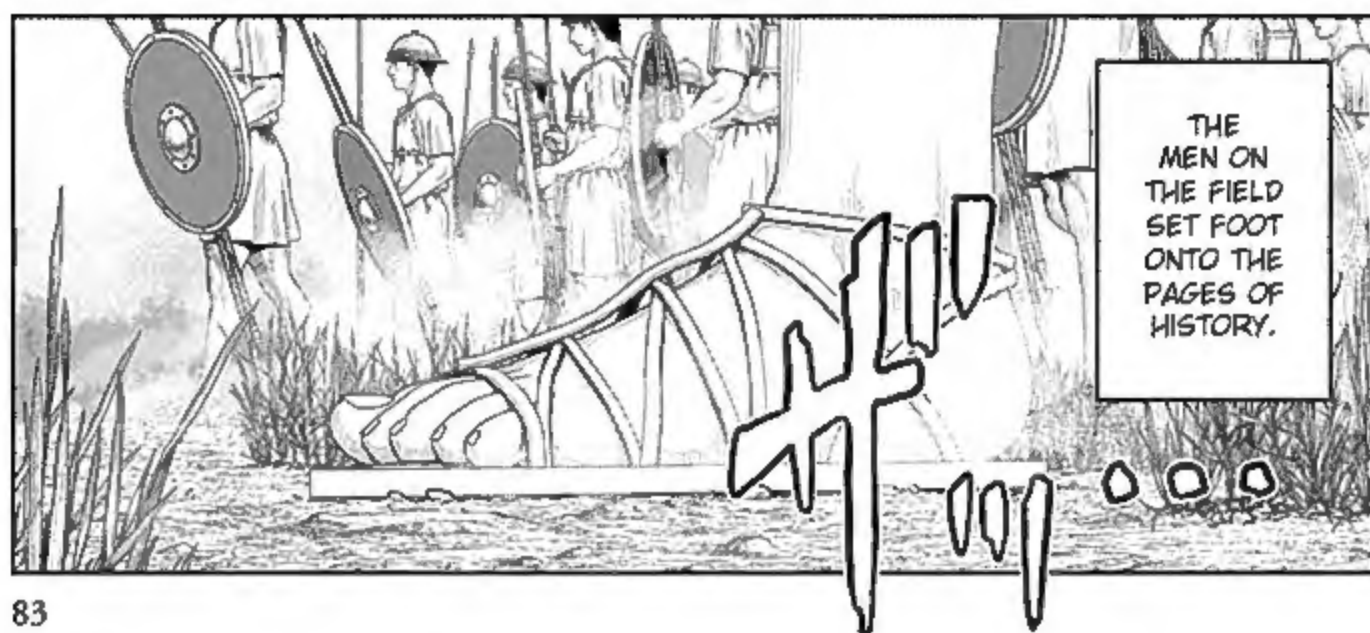
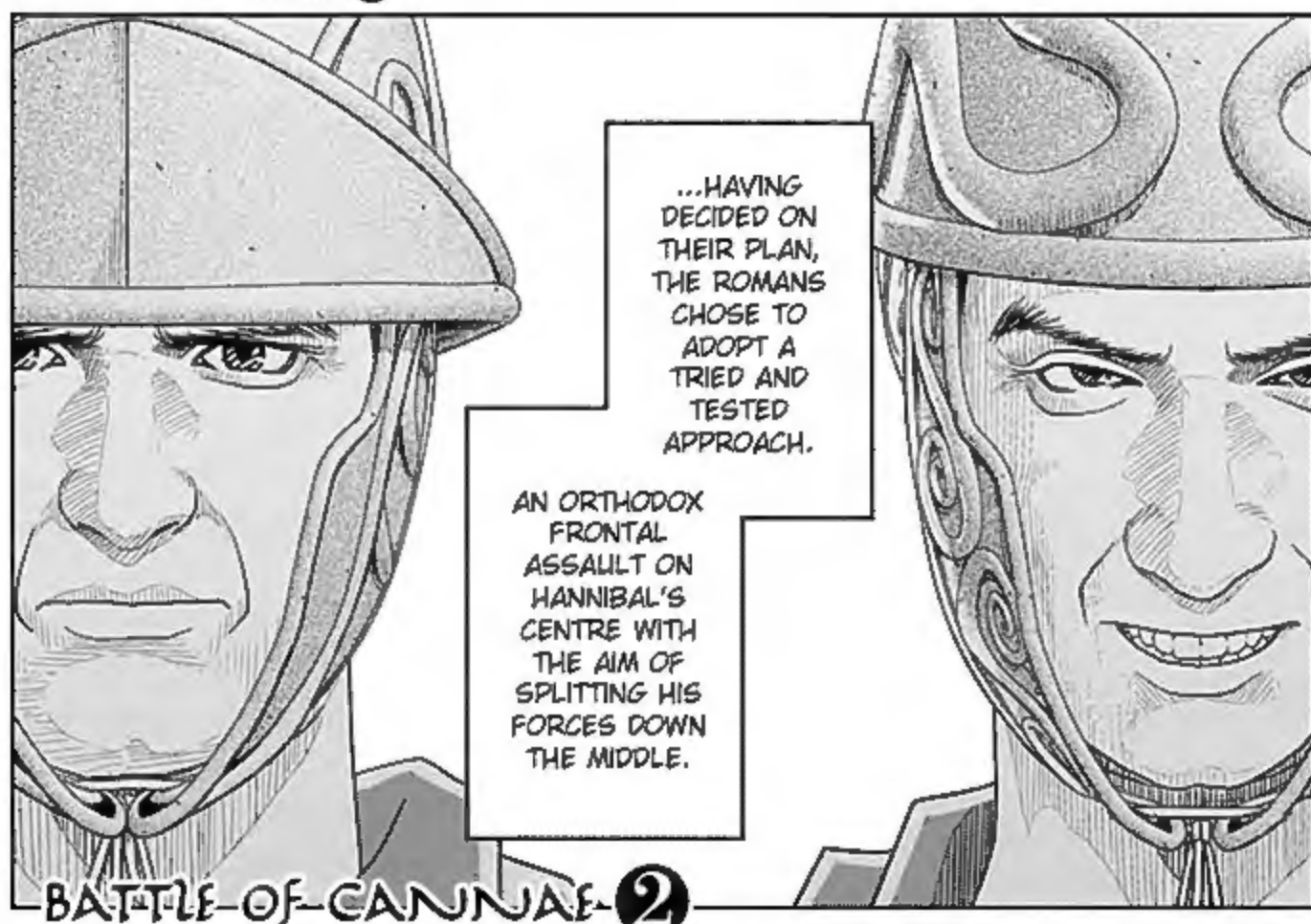


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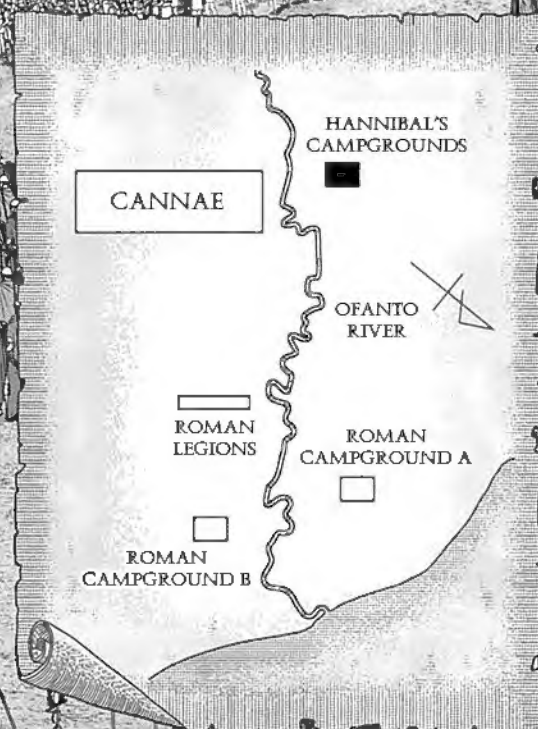
Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus Major & Hannibal Barca



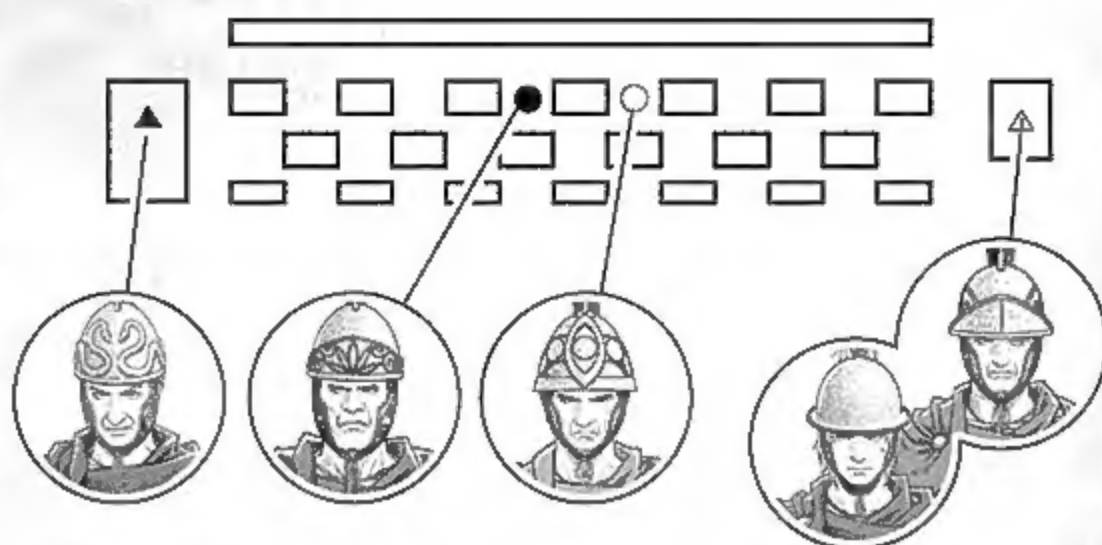
ad nostra episode 029

CHAPTER 29 BATTLE OF CANNAE 2

WHAT WOULD
COME TO BE
KNOWN AS
THE FAMOUS
BATTLE OF
CANNAE,
WAS ABOUT
TO BEGIN.



ROMAN FORCE COMPOSITION



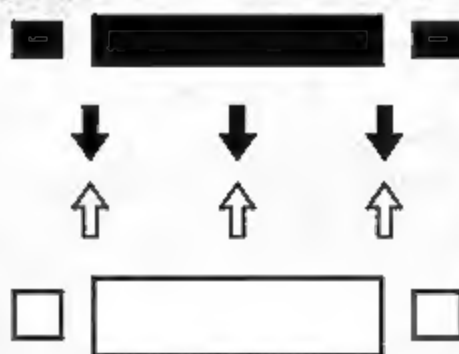
- 0 JAVELIN SKIRMISHERS VELITES
- 1 FIRST BATTLE LINE HASTATI (GAIUS)
- 2 SECOND BATTLE LINE PRINCEPS
- 3 THIRD BATTLE LINE TRIARI
- ▲ COMMANDER OF THE LEFT WING
ALLIED CAVALRY, VARRO
- INFANTRY COMMANDER SERVIUS
- INFANTRY COMMANDER MINUCIUS
- △ COMMANDER OF THE RIGHT WING
ROMAN CAVALRY, AEMILIUS (SCPIO)

ROMAN INFANTRY	35 000
ALLIED INFANTRY	35 000
ROMAN CAVALRY	2 400
ALLIED CAVALRY	4 000
CAMP GARRISON	10 000
TOTAL	86 400

OFANTO RIVER

BUT THE TRUTH IS, THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT DECISION BY THE ROMANS IN BOTH AN OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE SENSE.

IT ALLOWED THEM TO UTILISE THEIR FULL ADVANTAGE WHILE ALSO FOILING THE ENEMY'S PLAN.



■ HANNIBAL'S ARMY □ ROMANS

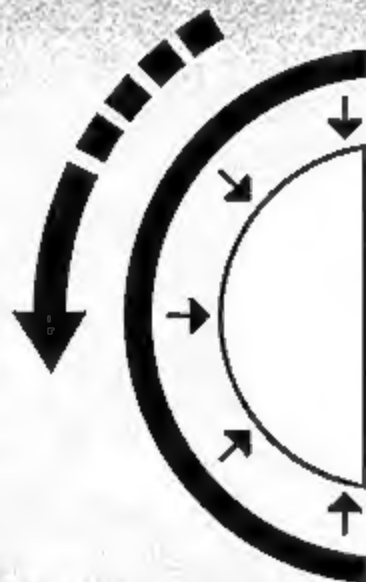
OFANTO RIVER

SOME MAY WONDER WHY THE ROMANS CHOSE TO ADOPT SUCH A PLAN,

SURELY SUCH A SIMPLE AND ORTHODOX APPROACH WOULD BE LITTERLY FOOLISH CONSIDERING THEY WERE UP AGAINST HANNIBAL.

THIS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIVER THAT WAS BEHIND THE ROMANS, WOULD HAVE ALLOWED HANNIBAL TO SUCCESSFULLY SURROUND THE ROMANS...

THIS ELEGANTLY NEGATING THE ROMAN'S NUMERICAL ADVANTAGE.



A COMMON MOTIF OF HANNIBAL'S MODUS OPERANDI WAS THE EXPLOITATION OF THE TERRAIN.

THE ROMANS EXPECTED HANNIBAL TO CONCENTRATE HIS FORCES ON THE LEFT WING, THEN ROTATE AROUND TO SURROUND THE MUCH LARGER ROMAN FORCE.

IF THEY WERE ABLE TO BREAK THROUGH HANNIBAL'S CENTRE, THEN YES, THEY WOULD BE PINCERED ON BOTH SIDES,

BUT AS THEY OUTNUMBERED HANNIBAL'S MEN NEARLY TWO TO ONE, THIS DID NOT POSE TOO GREAT A DANGER.

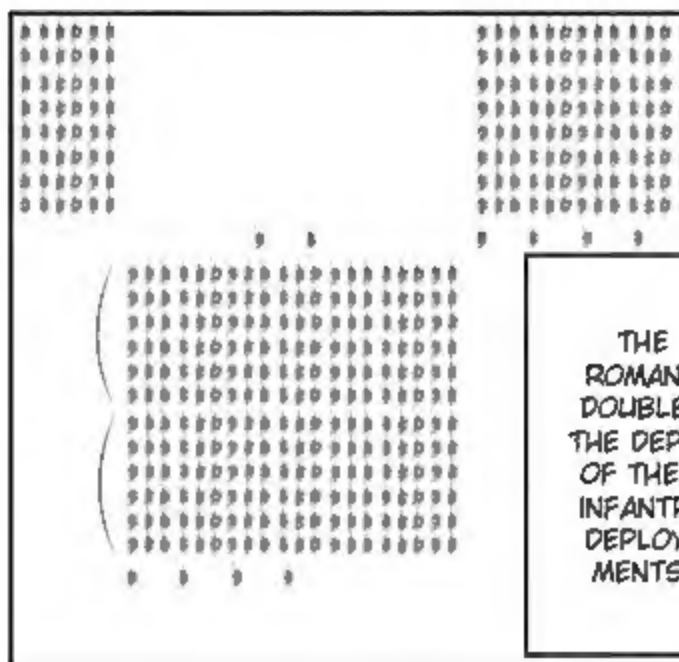


IN WHICH CASE, IT WAS THE ROMAN'S GOAL TO DENY HANNIBAL THIS USE OF THE RIVER THAT LAY BEHIND THEM.

IN A MASTERFUL REVERSAL, IT WOULD THEN BE THE ROMANS THAT WOULD ENJOY ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF THE RIVER WHILE CRUSHING HANNIBAL'S LEFT WING.

THE SEPARATED LEFT WING OF HANNIBAL'S MEN WOULD THEN FIND THEMSELVES TO BE THE ONES FIGHTING WITH THEIR BACKS TO THE RIVER.





WHICH IS WHY, TO FURTHER ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF PUNCHING THROUGH HANNIBAL'S RANKS,

THE ROMANS DOUBLED THE DEPTH OF THEIR INFANTRY DEPLOYMENTS.



THE PROBLEM WITH THIS PLAN WAS HOW LONG THE ROMANS WOULD TAKE TO BREAK THROUGH THE ENEMY CENTRE.



NUMIDIAN
CAVALRY

AS FOR THE CAVALRY, IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THEY WERE NO MATCH FOR HANNIBAL'S IN EITHER QUANTITY OR QUALITY.

THUS THEIR ONLY OBJECTIVE WAS TO BUY ENOUGH TIME FOR THE INFANTRY TO BREAK THROUGH HANNIBAL'S CENTRE.

GAULISH
CAVALRY

IBERIAN
CAVALRY



DUE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS TASK, WITH IT BEING THE ONE THING THAT WOULD DECIDE THE ENTIRE BATTLE,

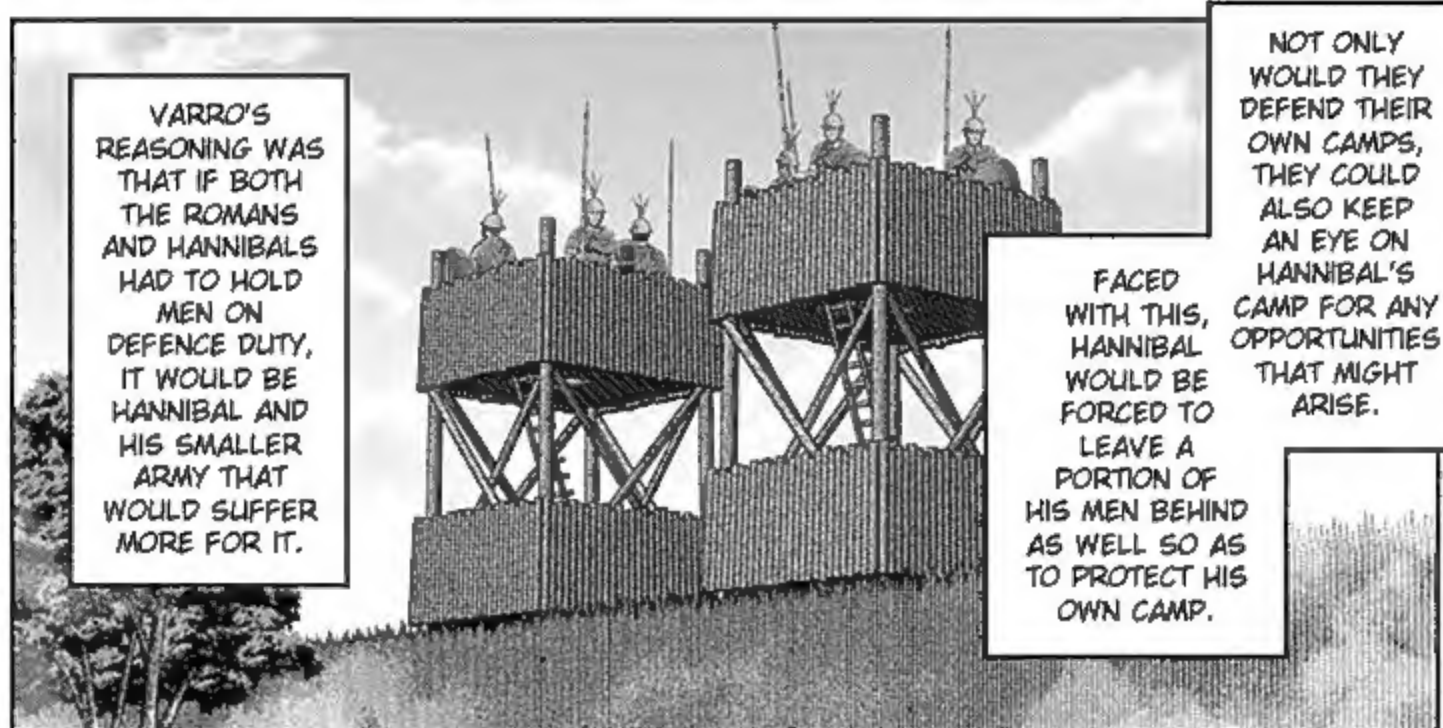
COMMAND OF THE RIGHT WING ROMAN CAVALRY WENT TO AEMIILIUS, WHILST VARRO WAS TO LEAD THE LEFT WING ALLIED CAVALRY.

DALLY TOO LONG AND THEIR REAR WOULD BE ATTACKED BY THE ENEMY CAVALRY, RESULTING IN THEIR PLAN GOING UP IN SMOKE.



HE DECIDED
TO LEAVE A
GARRISON
TOTTALLING
10 000
SOLDIERS
AT THE TWO
ROMAN CAMPS.

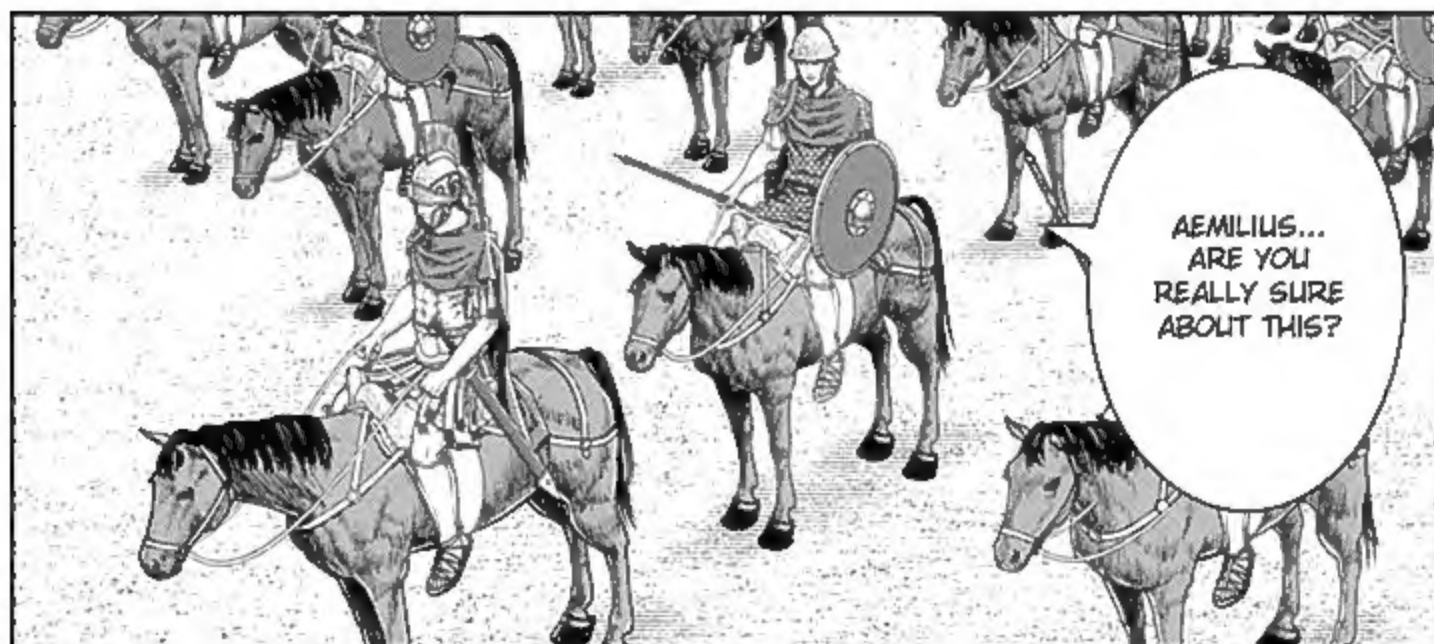
EMBOLDENED
BY HIS
CERTAINTY
OF A ROMAN
VICTORY,
VARRO WENT
ONE STEP
FURTHER.



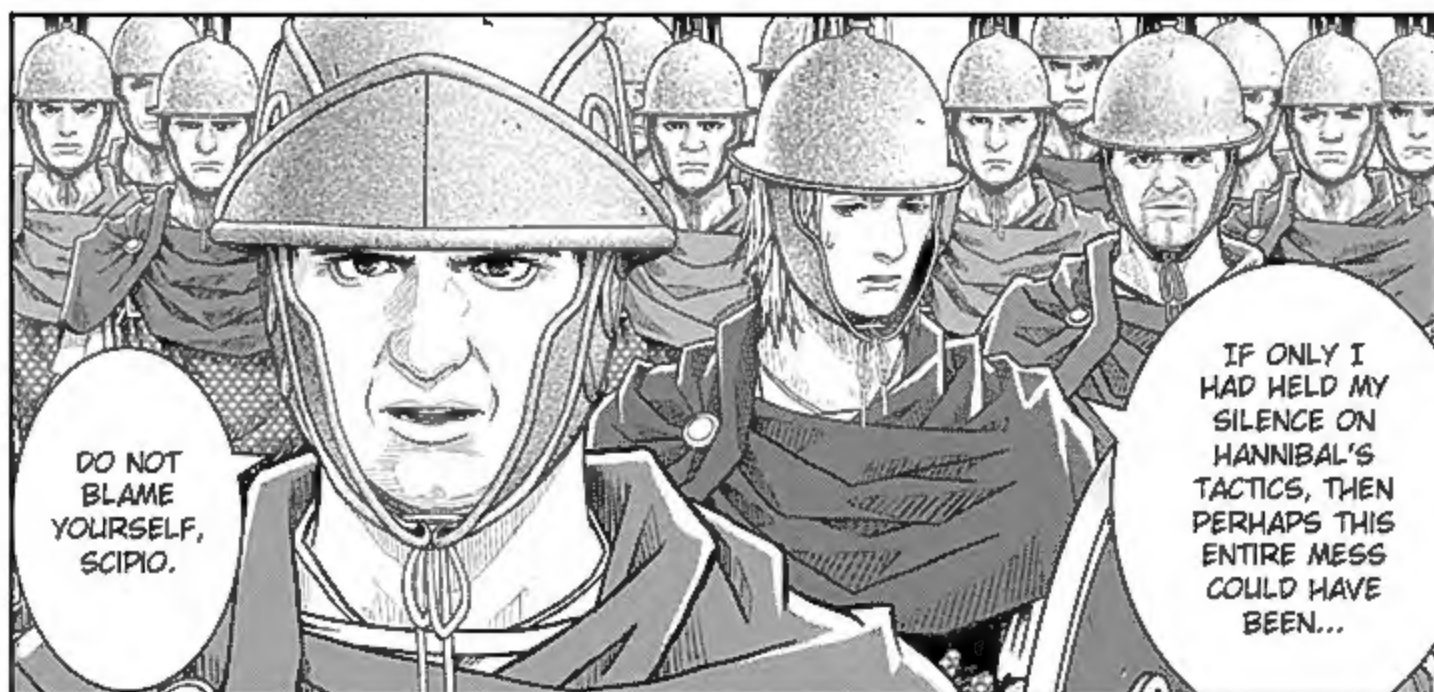
VARRO'S
REASONING WAS
THAT IF BOTH
THE ROMANS
AND HANNIBALS
HAD TO HOLD
MEN ON
DEFENCE DUTY,
IT WOULD BE
HANNIBAL AND
HIS SMALLER
ARMY THAT
WOULD SUFFER
MORE FOR IT.

NOT ONLY
WOULD THEY
DEFEND THEIR
OWN CAMPS,
THEY COULD
ALSO KEEP
AN EYE ON
HANNIBAL'S
CAMP FOR ANY
OPPORTUNITIES
THAT MIGHT
ARISE.

FACED
WITH THIS,
HANNIBAL
WOULD BE
FORCED TO
LEAVE A
PORTION OF
HIS MEN BEHIND
AS WELL SO AS
TO PROTECT HIS
OWN CAMP.



AEMIILIUS...
ARE YOU
REALLY SURE
ABOUT THIS?



DO NOT
BLAME
YOURSELF,
SCIPIO.

IF ONLY I
HAD HELD MY
SILENCE ON
HANNIBAL'S
TACTICS, THEN
PERHAPS THIS
ENTIRE MESS
COULD HAVE
BEEN...



AND VARRO
SURELY
WOULD HAVE
USED IT AS A
REASON TO
FORCE US INTO
A CONFRON-
TATION
JUST LIKE
THIS.

WITH 86 000
SOLDIERS HERE,
IT WAS ONLY A
MATTER OF TIME
UNTIL SOMEONE
BROUGHT
IT UP.

AFTER ALL,
EVEN I
NOTICED IT.



I CAN STEP
INTO THIS
BATTLE OF MY
OWN VOLITION
IS A BLESSING
OF SORTS...

IF
ANYTHING,
THE FACT
THAT...



SUCH AN
OBVIOUS
TAINT?...

HOW
COULD
YOU HAVE
FALLEN
FOR...



AEMIUS...

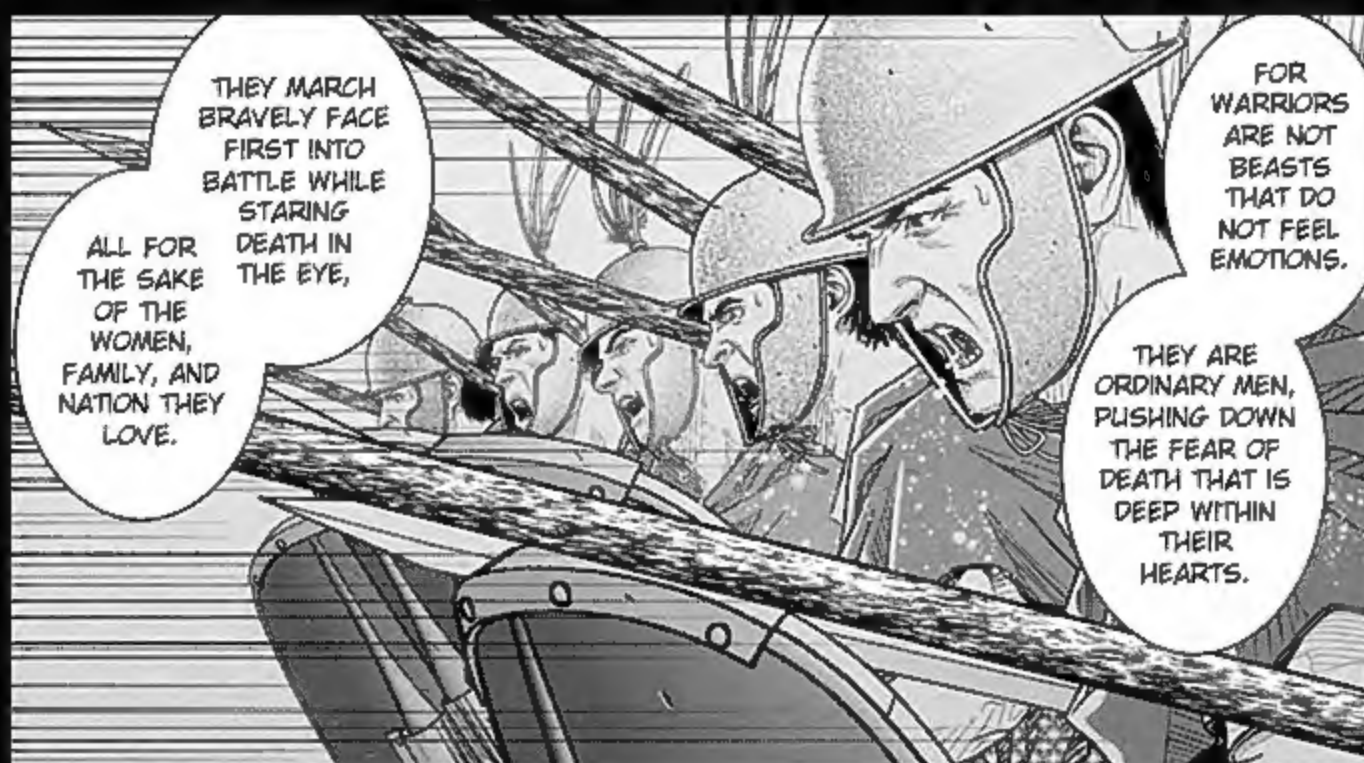
WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT?...



THERE IS
NO SHAME IN
HARBOURING
A FEAR OF
BATTLE.

ARE YOU
NOT A TRUE
SEASONED
WARRIOR OF
ROME?...

AFTER ALL,
THERE IS
NOTHING FOR
YOU TO FEEL
INFERIOR
ABOUT.



THEY MARCH
BRAVELY FACE
FIRST INTO
BATTLE WHILE
STARING
DEATH IN THE EYE,

ALL FOR
THE SAKE
OF THE
WOMEN,
FAMILY, AND
NATION THEY
LOVE.

FOR
WARRIORS
ARE NOT
BEASTS
THAT DO
NOT FEEL
EMOTIONS.

THEY ARE
ORDINARY MEN,
PUSHING DOWN
THE FEAR OF
DEATH THAT IS
DEEP WITHIN
THEIR
HEARTS.



I COULD
HARDLY CARE
LESS FOR
VARRO'S
SHALLOW
PROVOCA-
TIONS...



...NO,
THAT'S
NOT IT,
MINUCIUS.

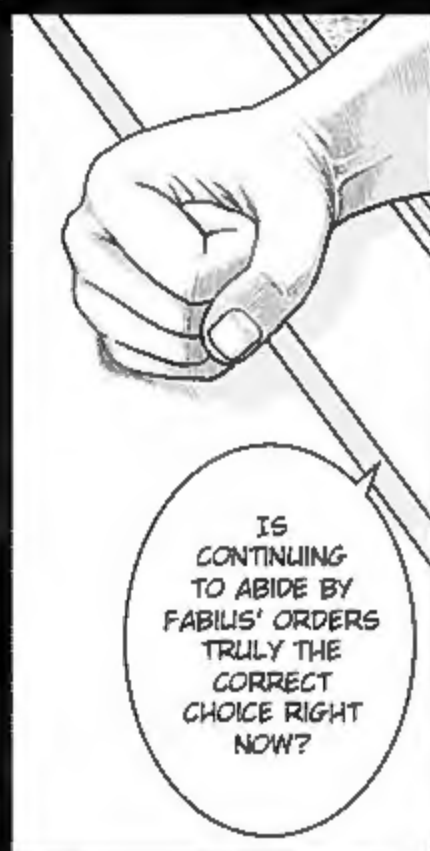


BUT EVER
SINCE I NOTICED
HANNIBAL'S AIM,
MY MIND HAS
BEEN PLAGUED
BY DOUBTS...



TO FOLLOW
HIS KEEN
INSIGHT AND
HIS ORDERS
SHOULD, BY
ALL MEANS,
BE THE RIGHT
THING TO
DO...

I HAVE
NO DOUBT
THAT MORE
THAN ANYONE,
FABIUS IS THE
ONE MAN WHO
UNDERSTANDS
HANNIBAL'S
CHARACTER
THE MOST.

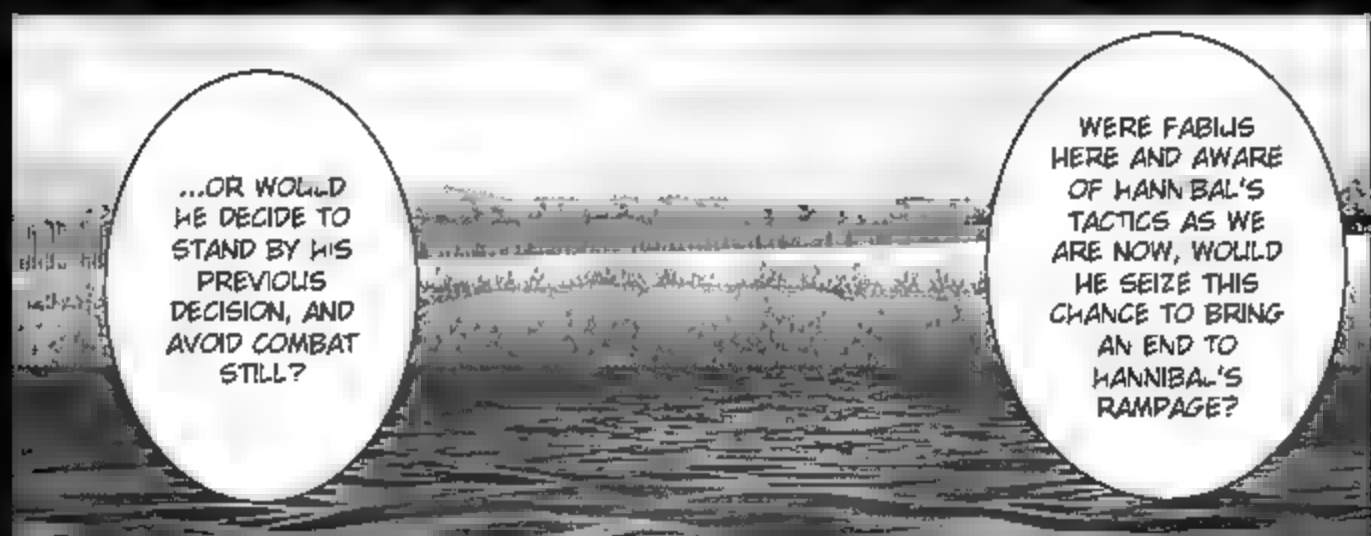


IS
CONTINUING
TO ABIDE BY
FABIUS' ORDERS
TRULY THE
CORRECT
CHOICE RIGHT
NOW?



BUT HE
IS NOT HERE
AT CANNÆ
WITH US
RIGHT NOW!

HE DOES
NOT KNOW
THE THINGS
THAT WE DO
NOW!

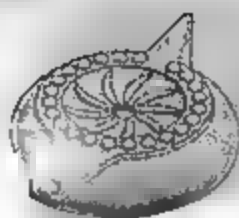


...OR WOULD
HE DECIDE TO
STAND BY HIS
PREVIOUS
DECISION, AND
AVOID COMBAT
STILL?

WERE FABIUS
HERE AND AWARE
OF HANNIBAL'S
TACTICS AS WE
ARE NOW, WOULD
HE SEIZE THIS
CHANCE TO BRING
AN END TO
HANNIBAL'S
RAMPAGE?



LIKE A
CHILD WHO
HAS BEEN
ENTRUSTED
WITH HIS
FIRST
ERRAND
BY THEIR
PARENTS...



EVERYONE
KNOWS THAT
I AM ONLY A
CONSUL IN
NAME, WITH
NO REAL
POWER...

TO TRY AND
PREDICT THAT
MAN'S THINKING
IS BEYOND
SOMEONE LIKE
ME.

...I DON'T
KNOW.



SHOULD
WE CHOOSE
TO FIGHT,
MUCH BLOOD
WILL BE
SPILT.

...OUR
ENEMY IS
HANNIBAL.



...BUT CAN
WE REALLY
LET THIS
OPPORTUNITY
SLIP BY JUST
BECAUSE OF
THAT?...



A POSITION
THAT IS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE FATE
OF MY SOLDIERS
AND THE ENTIRE
REPUBLIC OF
ROME.

BUT
DESPITE
ALL THAT,
I AM STILL
CONSUL,



...BUT
WHAT OF
OUR ALLIED
SOLDIERS?

SURELY
THEY WOULD
LOSE THE
WILL TO FIGHT
UNDER OUR
BANNER...

WHAT WILL
THEY THINK TO
THEMSELVES
WHEN THEY SEE
US COWARDLY
SHY AWAY FROM
SUCH A PERFECT
CHANCE?

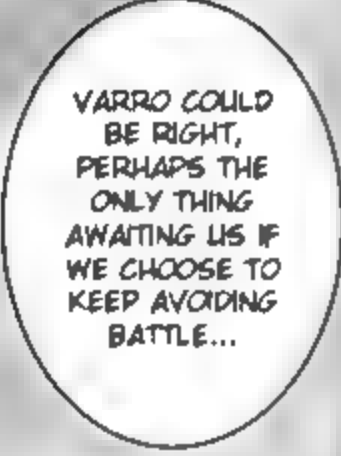


THEN YES,
PERHAPS VARRO
WILL CONCEDE
EVENTUALLY
AND WE WILL BE
ABLE TO AVOID
A CLASH.


IF WE
WERE TO
STUBBORNLY
INSIST ON
REMAINING
DEFENSIVE,



IS RUIN...




VARRO COULD
BE RIGHT,
PERHAPS THE
ONLY THING
AWAITING US IF
WE CHOOSE TO
KEEP AVOIDING
BATTLE...



WHO CAN
BLAME THEM
IF THEY
INSULT ME
AND SAY
THAT I AM
NO WARRIOR
OF ROME?



...I AM A
COWARD WHO
CANNOT EVEN
FIND THE
COURAGE TO
RUN AWAY
FROM THIS
ENEMY.



HOW COULD
A SMALL MAN
LIKE MYSELF
EVER HOPE
TO BEAR A
RESPONSIBILITY
THAT
LARGE?



A MISERABLE
EXCUSE OF A
WARRIOR.

...I CHOOSE
TO FIGHT
BECAUSE
I AM A
COWARD.







MINUCIUS,
YOU...

IF YOU
HAVE MADE
UP YOUR
MIND TO MEET
HANNIBAL IN
BATTLE,

THEN I
WILL GLADLY
OFFER UP
MY LIFE TO
THAT CAUSE.



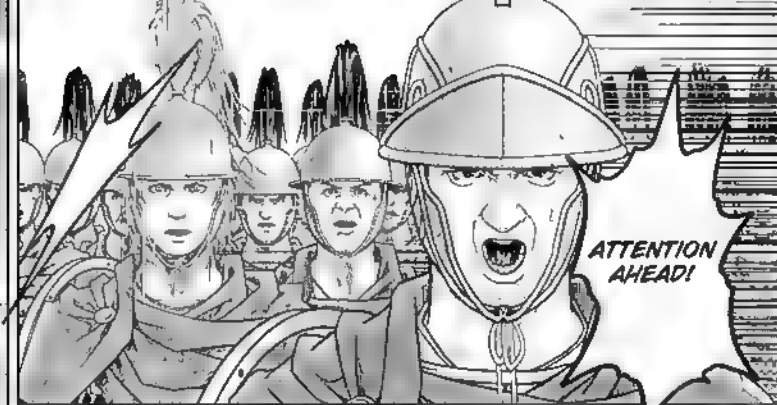
IT
SEEMS THAT
WITH EVERY
PASSING DAY,
MY DEBT
TO YOU
GROWS
LARGER...

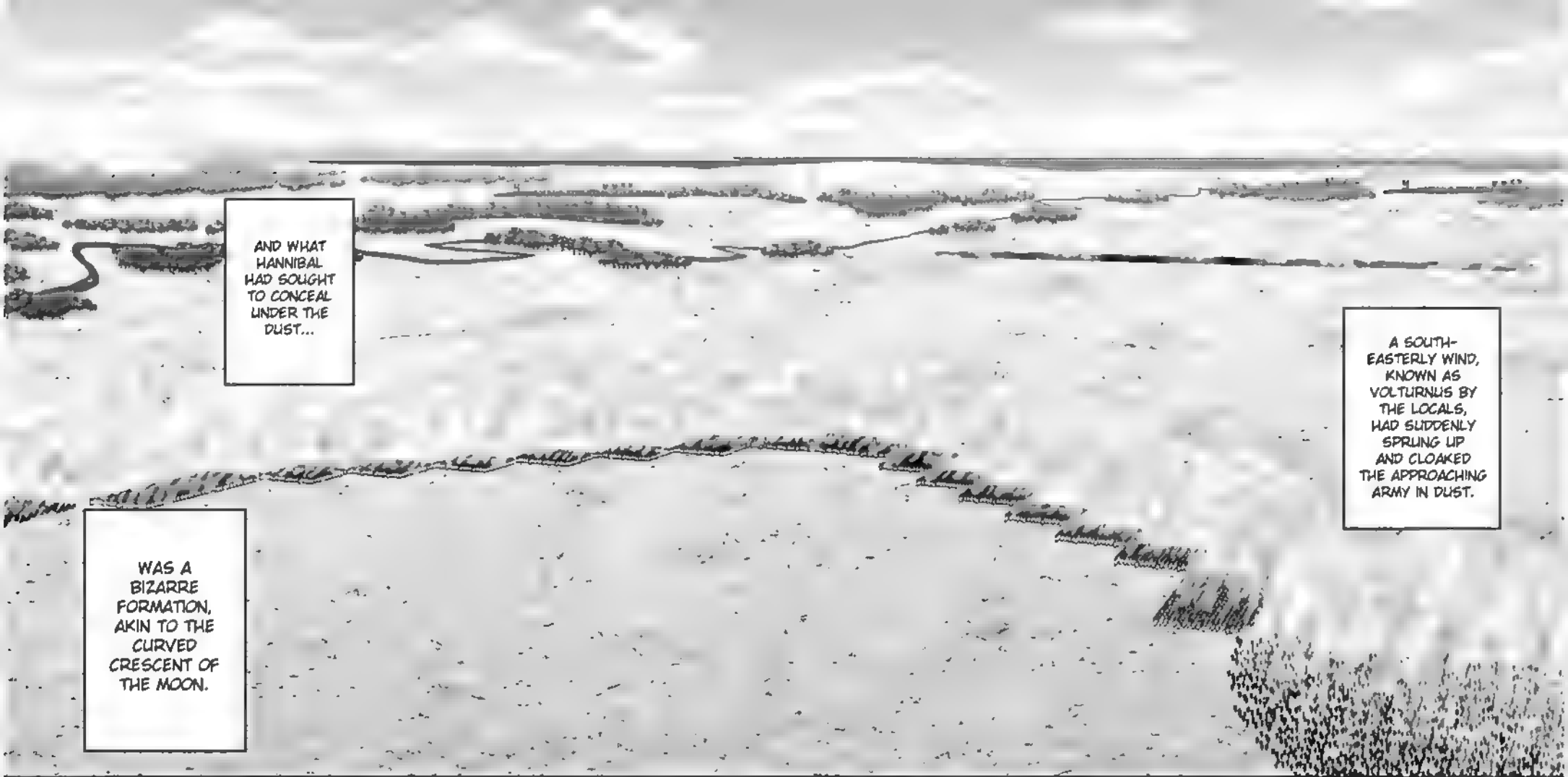


...I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO THANK
YOU...



YOU CAN
MAKE UP FOR
IT WITH SOME
FINE WINE ONCE
WE RETURN
TO ROME.





AND WHAT
HANNIBAL
HAD SOUGHT
TO CONCEAL
UNDER THE
DUST...

A SOUTH-
EASTERLY WIND,
KNOWN AS
VOLTURNUS BY
THE LOCALS,
HAD SUDDENLY
SPRUNG UP
AND CLOAKED
THE APPROACHING
ARMY IN DUST.

WAS A
BIZARRE
FORMATION,
AKIN TO THE
CURVED
CRESCENT OF
THE MOON.



ALL
TROOPS,
HALT!

ALL
TROOPS,
HALT.



WITH THEIR
VISION LIMITED
BY THE DUST,
THE ROMANS
FOUND
THEMSelves
BAFFLED.

WHAT WAS
THE MEANING
BEHIND SUCH
A STRANGE
FORMATION?



LET THE
BATTLE
BEGIN.





IT'S
SLINGERS!
PROTECT
YOUR
HEADS
FROM
ABOVE!



UWAH!





**FOR-
WARD!**

